

Collapse Indicators & Actions

Discussion

The potential for building collapse is present at virtually every structural fire response. Some indicators may be present but in others, officers and firefighters must be aware of clues presented by building construction type, the effectiveness of tactics/strategy and better risk hazard assessment. Once indicators are observed, officers must take immediate action to notify the IC and remove all personnel from the building and surrounding areas. Many types of collapse could occur during a fire operation. Interior collapses of ceiling, storage, furniture, and construction components could trap a company of firefighters under debris. Each horizontal level of the building and vertical component may potentially collapse. Working around the exterior of the building also brings many hazards including chimney collapse and wall collapse. Using information available in various reference manuals, identify the indicators of collapse in the typical types of buildings found within your community. Identify collapse indicators in the photos used below and discuss how you would handle similar incidents.



What collapse indicators are present in these photos?

NFPA Bldg Type	Construction Features	Hazards Under Fire	Collapse Indicators	<div>THE COLLAPSE TYPES</div>
I—Fire Resistive				
II—Non-Combustible				
III—Ordinary				
IV—Heavy Timber				
V—Wood Frame				

Complete this table on a dry erase board or separate paper. See Building Construction for the Fire Service, 3rd or Collapse of Burning Buildings for additional information.